

spirit of tens of millions of lives that have been enriched and pulled out of poverty because of this program, be dedicating ourselves to preserving and strengthening Social Security, not taking it apart, not borrowing money, not sticking Social Security money in the stock market, and not continuing to spend Social Security trust fund revenue on something for which it was not intended. But instead we should be putting our shoulder to the wheel and doing the right thing for this country.

We will have a great debate about this. A lot will be said about it. I do not attempt to tarnish anyone else who feels differently. I have respect for the President. We have a disagreement. I will not denigrate those who have a different feeling or who oppose my position, but I must say I feel very strongly about this issue because I think it is part of the core value system of this country.

This is a great, big, strong, wonderful, generous country, and doing the right thing is not very hard for this Congress in this circumstance.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX BREAK FOR COMPANIES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I will take just another minute. I understand none of my colleagues wish to speak. I was speaking without notes, so I did not mention something I intended to mention. Most Americans do not know that at the moment there is a flurry of activity going on that also relates to values.

This Congress, last year, passed legislation that contained a provision that is just Byzantine. It provides a tax break to companies that have, in many cases, moved their U.S. jobs overseas, earned income overseas, kept the income over there, and, under what is called a deferral, are not having to pay taxes on it in this country.

We have a tax break for companies that shut down their American plant, move their plant overseas, earn income overseas, do not bring the income back, and they get what is called a deferral. They do not pay taxes.

At some point, however, when they want to bring their income back to this country, they have to pay income taxes just as Americans do, and the companies that stayed here do, and the people who work for those companies do. Except last year, this Congress decided to give a big break to those who would repatriate their income from overseas profits.

There is some \$600 billion in income earned overseas that has not been repa-

triated and on which income taxes have not been paid. So guess what. This Congress said to all those big companies that made all this income overseas, some of which was made by shutting down their American plant and moving the jobs overseas: If you bring that money back, we will give you a deal. You get to pay income tax at the rate of 5.25 percent—5.25.

Do you know of anybody else working in this country who gets to pay a 5.25-percent income tax. How about the people working at the 7-Eleven at the counter, a person who is changing oil in a car, a person who is working on a road crew, do you think any of those people are paying 5.25-percent income tax on their earnings? No, they are not. The lowest bracket in the income system in this country is 10 percent, and it goes up to 35 percent. But now we have a new low bracket, and it is a special bracket. For those who earned income overseas and now repatriate the income to this country, some of which came as a result of moving American jobs overseas, they get to pay income taxes at 5.25 percent.

It reminded me of that great old song by Tom Paxton, "I Am Changing My Name to Chrysler." This country gave a big loan to Chrysler many years ago when Mr. Iacocca was with Chrysler. It was very controversial. Tom Paxton wrote a song. He says:

Oh the price of gold is rising out of sight
And the dollar is in sorry shape tonight.
What a dollar used to get us
Now won't get a head of lettuce
No the economic forecast is not bright.

Then he goes on to talk about who gets the benefits and who pays the bills. At some point, I will read the entire lyrics to this song.

It is a little like my colleague from Texas who knows about Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys, a lyric from a song of the 1930s that goes: The little bee sucks the blossom but the big bee gets the honey. The little guy picks the cotton and the big guy gets the money.

Guess what. There is a lot of that spirit in the breasts of those who serve in this Congress who believe we ought to offer a 5.25-percent income tax rate to just a special group of people, those who have some \$600 billion parked overseas.

What about a 5.25-percent income tax rate for all Americans? Or what about charging those who repatriate that income the regular income tax rate and put that money into the Social Security system? Once again, it is a question of priorities and values and this Congress came up short on this issue.

Very few people know that at the moment there are lawyers, accountants, and business executives scurrying around trying to figure out how they are going to take advantage of a special income tax rate that only they get, and the folks who work hard in this country and take a shower at night because they worked in tough conditions all day, they get to pay 10, 15, 25 or 30 percent income taxes.

Maybe, as Tom Paxton said in "I Am Changing My Name to Chrysler," we need to change our name so we get some of that 5.25-percent income tax rate. Maybe ordinary Americans ought to get some of that. Again, it is about values and about priorities.

I am going to talk more about this subject because the American people need to understand what this Congress did. It is about cotton and honey and big guys and big bees, and I will talk more about it in the future. I was thinking about it while I was talking about Social Security and priorities and values. It is something the American people ought to understand. There is a special deal out there and it is not for them, regrettably, because this Congress decided they are not worthy. It is just the big interests that are worthy of the 5.25-percent income tax rate.

HONORING THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN'S BIRTH

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about an American success story. It is one that ended, at least his life on Earth, in June of last year. It is to the story of a man who rose from humble beginnings and surroundings to become a leader. In fact, he became one of, if not the greatest leaders, in the 20th century, and I am talking about President Ronald Reagan.

This coming Sunday, February 6, would have been President Reagan's 94th birthday. I hope this weekend, when so many people in America will be watching the Super Bowl and all the festivities surrounding it, they will take a moment to remember not only Ronald Reagan's birth but to reflect on the positive impacts his life has had on so many people in America and around the world.

He was a man who stood strong for enduring foundational principles in the face of conflict and adversity at home and who faced down the Communist menace abroad. Through it all, he never lost touch with the decency and the morality of America that we aspire for in our leaders and indeed all of our citizens.

A few weeks ago, I took what I called a Ronald Reagan pilgrimage with my wife Susan and our three young kids to southern California. We went to the gravesite of the Reagan Presidential Library. There is also a museum, which is wonderful, and tells his whole life story.

We also trekked up through all the rains and floods and fog, up to Rancho del Cielo, the Reagan ranch. There, at that ranch, you see the core of Ronald Reagan, the substance of him. He spent 1 out of 8 days as President up at this ranch, which is 600 acres. It is a very humble place—small, as far as the housing. It had a small shower. He must have been elbowing that shower all the time, trying to take a shower there. That is where he rode his horses, cut wood, trimmed trees. You could see

this is how Ronald Reagan kept his common sense. This is where you see the essence of the man, why he was so well grounded so that he could somehow see the future and keep the inspiration and appreciation of the grandeur of God's creation with the beauty of the trees and the rocks and mountains and the animals, but also recognizing what is great about this country, and the hard work and the personal strength it takes to do various things.

Ronald Reagan was a modern-day hero who embodied all that was great about George Washington and the spirits enunciated by Thomas Jefferson. His perseverance, his strength, his commitment to principle are lessons that taught me and taught many others. He was the person who inspired me and many others to get involved in organized politics and into public service. Today, thanks to Ronald Reagan, as I saw Ambassadors on the House floor from Lithuania, from Romania, throughout Central Europe—those were hundreds of millions of people who were behind the Iron Curtain. But, thanks to Ronald Reagan's perseverance, for his belief in the dignity of all human beings, that all people do yearn to be free, to exercise their God-given rights, those people who were behind that Iron Curtain, who were enemies, are now tasting that sweet nectar of liberty. They are our friends. They are our allies in this war on terror. Their numbers are growing, with greater hope and prosperity. Ronald Reagan helped make sure this century is the century of liberty.

While President Reagan's life here on Earth is over, his legacy continues to endure, motivate, and inspire me and others here in America and around the world. I hope on this weekend we will think of Nancy Reagan, say a prayer for her, remember and also thank God for one of the greatest blessings He has provided to us and that is the birth of Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I see my wonderful partner and colleague from Virginia, Senator WARNER, has joined us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I compliment my colleague for his thoughts about Ronald Reagan. With a great sense of humility and modesty, I recount one story of an experience I had with him. He loved our State of Virginia, by the way. So often on the weekends he would come down into the vicinity of where I, in those days, had a farm. He would call up and say: Hey, let's go riding.

He was the President of the United States. I said: Fine, Mr. President, where and when?

He said: Right there, on your place, just set it up.

Just as you said, Senator ALLEN, he loved the outdoors. But I remember one day we brought the horses in and were getting them ready—I had a wonderful man who used to be working for

me, and my man was putting the saddle on my horse and cinching him up. Along came the President's horse. I said to my man: Let's go over there and help the President put his saddle on the horse. We walked over there and the President said: I do my own saddle. No one touches my tack. I am going to do it.

He grabbed that big old western saddle he had, put it on the horse, cinched him down, and then he went over to help Nancy put her gear on, and off we rode, across the hills of Virginia. Eventually, we stopped up on a hill. It was a hot day in August and the flies were bothering the horses, and the Secret Service guys were having a dickens of a time staying on the horses.

He checked the horse and looked down in the valley. Senator ALLEN, he recounted to me with great specificity every step of the valley campaign. How the northerners marched down the valley and then the southern troops, Confederates, would drive them back up, and Stonewall Jackson, and on and on.

Frankly, as much time as I have spent in that valley—I went to school at Washington & Lee University—I learned facts from our President at that time about the history of Virginia.

He loved America. He loved the outdoors. He loved his history and he loved his people. You captured him beautifully in your remarks. I congratulate you, my friend.

Mr. ALLEN. I thank my colleague.

THE IRAQI ELECTIONS AND U.S. POLICY IN IRAQ

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak of the historic Iraqi elections and the President's message last night.

This past Sunday, the world watched as millions of Iraqi people headed to the polls to participate in their first free election in more than 50 years.

In doing so, the Iraqis defied the terrorists and they risked their lives for what was, for most, the first exercise of democracy in their lifetimes.

Not only did the Iraqi people defy the terrorists, but they defied the skeptics—some of whom could be found in Iraq itself, many others throughout the international community, and, disappointingly, even here at home. Many said that the elections were too soon, that the Iraqi people wouldn't dare come out of their homes to vote, and worse, that the Iraqi people weren't ready and didn't desire freedom.

Though the votes have yet to be tallied, the millions of Iraqi voters that turned out on Sunday underscore the truism that people desire to be free.

And one of the most fundamental political freedoms is the freedom to choose your government. What we saw on Sunday should not surprise Americans: When given the opportunity to be in charge of their own destiny, citizens of all nations will not only turn out in great numbers, but they are willing to

sacrifice their own lives for the opportunity to live in a free society.

I agree with one of America's most perceptive analysts on the region, Fouad Ajami, who said that on Sunday we bonded with the Iraqi people, because they were doing the most American act: voting.

As a strong supporter of our President and his policy in Iraq, I am always encouraged by my fellow Utahns who believe America should stay the course, fight on, and finish what we started. Utahns appreciate the sacrifice and courage of our troops, and those of the Iraqis who deeply appreciate our commitment.

Earlier this week, I read that the mayor of Baghdad even wants to erect a statue to President Bush, calling him the "symbol of freedom." When asked if he was concerned about the many threats on his life, Mayor Ali Fadel said, "My life is cheap, everything is cheap for my country."

He also said, "We have a lot of work and we are especially grateful to the soldiers of the USA for freeing our country of tyranny."

We saw this gratitude again last night when the daughter of a man killed by Saddam Hussein's thugs was hugged by the mother of a Marine who gave his life in Fallujah.

Some may erroneously dismiss that as crafted drama. For me, that moment in the State of the Union will forever capture America's mission of spreading freedom in this world.

I have tears in my eyes because I remember many years ago receiving notice that my brother had been killed in the Second World War fighting for the freedom that Sergeant Norwood fought for over in Iraq—fighting for the freedoms for Europe and the world.

Many of our soldiers risking their lives in Iraq are my fellow Utahans. I am both proud and impressed with their willingness to serve their country and help the Iraqi people establish a free and democratic government.

Just yesterday, a group of 100 Utah National Guard men and women, in addition to the 500 that left just a week before, were deployed to bases in the U.S. for training, after which they will move to Iraq, where they will continue to serve for 1 year.

We have had Utahans over there serving beyond the term they were supposed to serve.

We have had Utahans over there serving beyond the term they were supposed to serve. I know they will serve well and, I pray for their safe return home to their loved ones and families.

We all understand that this election was just one more step on the path to a free and democratic Iraq. But, it was an enormously important step.

I commend our President, our brave men and women in uniform, and especially, the freedom-loving people of Iraq.

President Bush began his speech last night recognizing that he serves at the privilege of the voters, and that, today,